

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 09457 250803Z
ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EA-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00
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R 250758Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8226

UNCLAS TOKYO 09457

PASS COMMERCE

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: ETRD, JA
SUBJECT: TRADE FACILITATION COMMITTEE: BOEING MARINE
SYSTEMS (GOJ SHIP CERTIFICATION PROCEDURES)

REF: TOKYO 8028

SUMMARY: EMBASSY HOPES TO RESOLVE SHORT-TERM SHIP
INSPECTION FINANCING PROBLEM BY ISSUING LETTER TO MOT
SHIP BUREAU STATING THAT "U.S. SIDE", I.E., BOEING
MARINE, WILL DEFRAY EXPENSES. WE WILL THEN EXPLORE
WITH SHIP BUREAU, POSSIBLY WITH SUMITOMO INPUT, HOW
FUTURE INSPECTIONS MIGHT BE HANDLED. JUDGMENT RESERVED
AS TO WHETHER CASE SHOULD BE REFERRED TO THE TFC.
END SUMMARY.

1. EMBOFF HAS MET WITH BOEING MARINE'S JAPANESE REP,
SUMITOMO, AS PROMISED REFTEL. PROBLEM APPEARS TO BREAK
INTO TWO PARTS: 1) SHORT-TERM PROBLEM OF FINANCING TRIP
TO RENTON TO INSPECT SECOND SKK JETFOIL AND 2) FINANCING
FUTURE ON-SITE INSPECTIONS WHICH ARE REQUIRED IN
ACCORDANCE WITH REGULATIONS ISSUED IN SUPPORT OF
THE SHIP SAFETY LAW. ACCORDING TO SUMITOMO, SHIP BUREAU
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ITSELF IS WILLING TO FINANCE SUCH INSPECTIONS SO LONG
AS MONEY HAS BEEN BUDGETED FOR THE PURPOSE. GIVEN GOJ
BUDGET CYCLE, ANY INSPECTION REQUIRED DURING THIS
FISCAL YEAR (APRIL 1978 THROUGH MARCH 1979) WOULD HAVE
HAD TO HAVE BEEN FACTORED INTO THE BUDGET PLANNING
PROCESS BY AUGUST/SEPTEMBER LAST YEAR.

2. REGARDING THE IMMEDIATE PROBLEM, SUMITOMO BELIEVES SHIP BUREAU WILL AGREE TO BOEING'S DEFRAIVING THE COST OF THE RENTON TRIP IF THE EMBASSY ISSUES A LETTER REQUESTING THE INSPECTION AND STATING THAT THE "U.S. SIDE," I.E., BOEING MARINE, WILL DEFRAID EXPENSE. THEY ARE NOW SOUNDING OUT THE SHIP BUREAU TO VERIFY THAT THIS PROCEDURE WILL BE ACCEPTABLE. ASSUMING OK IS GIVEN, EMBASSY PLANS TO ISSUE LETTER OVER SIGNATURE OF ECON MIN.

3. RE LONGER-TERM, EMBOFF WILL THEN MEET WITH SHIP BUREAU OFFICIALS, WITH POSSIBLE PARTICIPATION OF SUMITOMO, TO EXAMINE WAYS IN WHICH FUTURE INSPECTIONS MIGHT BE HANDLED, E.G., "CONTINGENCY TRAVEL FUND" IN SHIP BUREAU BUDGET, POSSIBILITY OF EASING OF ON-SITE INSPECTION REQUIREMENT, ETC.

4. EMBASSY RESERVES OPINION AS TO WHETHER CASE SHOULD BE REFERRED TO TFC.

MANSFIELD

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NNN

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